



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

Office of Commissioner
Jonathan S. Adelstein

June 11, 2007

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's rules for special access services. I agree with your assessment about the importance of revising these rules on an expedited basis.

Special access services are critical inputs for independent wireless, satellite, and long distance providers. These providers depend on access to the nearly ubiquitous networks and services of incumbent providers to connect their own networks to their customers and to other carriers. As GAO found in its recent report on special access services, alternative providers serve, on average, less than six percent of the buildings with demand for dedicated access, leaving 94 percent of the market served only by incumbent providers. It is also clear that many business customers and wholesale carriers rely heavily on special access services for their voice and high-speed connections. In addition, many small rural providers depend on these services to connect to the Internet backbone. So, I agree with your assessment of the importance of revising our special access rules in order to ensure greater wireless broadband competition, as well as the availability of services at just and reasonable rates for large and small businesses, schools, hospitals, government offices, and public safety and municipal wireless users.

As you observe, the timing of the review of our special access rules is also important. Particularly with the upcoming auction for licenses in the 700 Megahertz band of spectrum, it is critical for the Commission to move forward with its long pending proceeding on special access pricing. The Commission has compiled a substantial record in that proceeding, in addition to the records compiled in the recent major wireline merger proceedings. Moreover, GAO's report on special access services also provides fresh evidence and motivation to address these issues as expeditiously and comprehensively as possible. To that end, I would support every effort to address these rules by September 15, 2007.

Thank you for your interest in these important issues, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan S. Adelstein", is written over a horizontal line.

Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission